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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Military Information Center Soviet Troops in Sinuiju

ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Soviet Troops in Sinuiju (Shingiehu) (124-24,40-06):

a. The number of Soviet troops in Sinuiju is about 2000. [redacted] Note: 25X1A
[redacted] estimates the number at about 1500. According to a conductor
employed on the train running from Pyongyang (Heijo) (125-44, 39-01) to
Sinuiju, five railway cars carrying a total of approximately 350 troops were
added to the train in Pyongyang about 15 April. Final destination of the
cars was Sinuiju. The five cars were in addition to the two cars normally
assigned to Soviet troops on the Pyongyang-Sinuiju train. As no similar
addition of cars was made to the train from Sinuiju to Pyongyang, the conductor
believes Soviet troop strength was slightly increased in Sinuiju during April.
The same conductor also states that four flatcars loaded with trucks also
arrived in Sinuiju at approximately the same time and that the trucks were
consigned to Soviet Military Forces in Sinuiju.

b. In the former Japanese Military Guard Station, which is near the boundary
separating the White Sand District (白沙洞) from the White Cloud District
(白云洞), there are 20 artillery pieces resembling the 122mm Howitzer.

c. Insignia observed on shoulder boards of Soviet officers in Sinuiju:

- (1) Largest group observed wear shoulder boards with no insignia and are
believed to belong to the infantry.
- (2) Second largest group wear tank corps insignia.
- (3) Third largest group wear air corps insignia.
- (4) Fourth largest group wear insignia resembling that of transportation
corps with some differences: the bricks and star are absent, while
the anchor and sledge hammers ☒ hammer and sickle ☐ are surrounded
by a ring of flower petals.
- (5) Smaller groups wear the insignia of the artillery corps, and two
officers seen in the vicinity of the airport control tower wear
signal corps insignia.

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2. Soviet Soldiers Observed En Route from Sinuiju to Pyongyang:

- a. There were eight passenger cars on the train which left Sinuiju at 0800 on 18 April. Two passenger cars were assigned to the Soviet troops, the number normally allotted to the Soviets on this train. These cars have seats and windows, differing thereby from the cars in which the Koreans travel.
- b. Approximately 150 Soviets were on the train, each car carrying between 70 and 80 soldiers. Of the 70 soldiers in one car, about 20 were officers. Infantry, tank and air corps insignia were observed. One tank corps officer wore the Guards Badge and several wore a decoration resembling the Order of the Star for the Fatherland. The actual decoration, not the ribbon, was worn. Other decorations were worn but cannot be identified.
- c. Each soldier on the train was armed with a rifle or sub-machine gun. Each officer carried a pistol. About 30 damaged rifles were loaded on one of the cars in Sinuiju and were being sent to Pyongyang for repair.
- d. No inspection of Soviet soldiers was made on the train. The only Koreans who rode in the Soviet cars were a Russian interpreter working at the Sinuiju airfield and seven Korean laborers proceeding with the interpreter and eight Soviet soldiers to Charyongwan (Sharenkan) (124-42,39-52) to bring firewood back to Sinuiju.
- e. According to the above-mentioned interpreter, the Soviets have purchased a mountain near Charyongwan from which they obtain all their firewood. Wood is shipped to the detachments in Sinuiju and also to detachments south of Charyongwan in Sonchon (Sonsen) (124-54,39-43) and Chongju (Teishu) (125-12,39-42). Several flat cars loaded with pine wood were seen at Charyongwan.

3. Pyongyang:

- a. Several officers belonging to tank and artillery corps were observed wearing the Guards Badge.
- b. Trenches have been dug around the Pyongyang airfield and seven artillery pieces placed at different points around the perimeter of the defenses.

4. Soviet Troops in Chinnampo (125-24,38-44):

- a. The number of Soviet troops in Chinnampo has been greatly reduced during the last three months. Local residents estimate the number of Soviet troops at 2000, or less than one half the number there three months ago. Many Soviet officers wear no insignia and are believed to be infantry officers. Tank corps and artillery insignia are also seen in Chinnampo.
- b. Soviet officers and their families reside in the vicinity of the former Japanese Police Bureau. The former Japanese Navigation Bureau is also used for billeting Soviet troops; however, the main Soviet barracks are outside of the city.

5. Soviet Detachment in Uiju (Gishu) (124-32,40-12):

- a. Two Soviet officers and six Soviet enlisted men comprise the entire Soviet detachment in Uiju. This detachment has been stationed in

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Uiju for the last five months. Commanding Officer is a Captain MIROV (based on pronunciation), while the vice-commander is a first lieutenant. The captain wears a yellow shoulder board with a red stripe and red border. Main duties of the unit appear to be connected with the Uiju prison, which is visited once a week, usually on Saturday. The captain gives orders to local prison officials to speed investigations of certain individuals, release others and hold others for further investigation. The captain and his interpreter make a trip to Pyongyang once a month. The detachment is billeted in the former Japanese Hotel.

- b. The interpreter, a Korean named CH'A Im-k'ap (車任甲), and possibly the captain, are connected with the local smuggling operations across the Korean-Manchurian border. The interpreter promises protection to the smugglers in return for money and materials which he states are given to the captain. Soviet Army vehicles have been used to go to the Yalu River bank and pick up materials brought by the merchants from Manchuria.

6. Truck Traffic:

- a. The Soviets increased the number of vehicles in northwest Korea during April and May. Heavy truck traffic on the highway between Sinuiju and Pyongyang can be observed, as well as between Chinnampo and Pyongyang. About 18 April more than 100 Soviet trucks were at Kanni (甘里) (Chonni?) (125-42,39-12). Note: 20 trucks at Kanni in February.)

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